

HABS
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Paducah City Hall
South Fifth Street
Paducah
McCracken County
Kentucky

HABS No. KY-170

P H O T O G R A P H S

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

HABS No. KY-170

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KY,

73-PAD

1-

Name: Paducah City Hall

South Fifth Street

Location: One city block bounded by 4th and 5th Streets and
Washington and Clark Streets.

Paducah, McCracken County, Kentucky

Present Owner and Occupant:

City of Paducah

Present Use: All city government functions including:

Mayor and City Manager offices

Corporation Council

Commission Chambers

Engineering & Street Departments

Finance

Building Inspection

Police Department and 30 person jail

Police Courtroom

Significance: Paducah City Hall was commissioned to the architectural firm of Edward Durell Stone in October, 1962 through the efforts of the Paducah McCracken County Development Council and local architect Lee Potter Smith, whose firm of Lee Potter Smith and Associates served as associate architects with Mr. Stone's office.

Note: See page 2 for historical reference.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. (a) Design commissioned - October 1962 - see exhibit B*
- (b) Groundbreaking, construction started 20 June 1963
(see notice to proceed) documentation exhibit G.
- (c) Construction completed - January, 1965 - see exhibits J-K-L

2. Architects and Engineers

Design Architect and Architect of Record

Edware Durell Stone

New York, New York - see exhibit C and drawings

Associate Architect

Lee Potter Smith and Associates

Paducah, Kentucky

Consulting Engineers

Edward T. Hamman and Associates

Paducah, Kentucky

3. Contractor

Seth E. Glem and Associates

Memphis, Tennessee

Paducah, Kentucky - J.P. Kerr manager

William H. Hudson, superintendent

Kalamazoo, Michigan

See list of subcontractors, exhibit E.

4. Original Plans and Specifications

Drawings and specifications are on file at the
office of the associate architect for the project
L.P.S. and Associates

2200 Broadway

Paducah, Kentucky 42001

The building has not been altered since its construction. See exhibit — for description and refer to drawings.

5. No alterations or additions have been made.

B. Historical Context

The Paducah City Hall was constructed under the administration of Mayor Robert C. Cherry (3 times mayor of the city). The city commissioners at that time were Albert Karnes, C. Winston Gholson, A.B. Fendley and John Hornsby. The city manager was Raleigh L. Brockman and corporation council was H. Warren Middleton.

Funding for the project was provided by a \$300,000.00 general revenue bond, a \$130,000.00 block grant from Urban Renewal and Community Development Agency and a \$600,000.00 federal grant from the 1962 Accelerated Public Works Program (APW-KY-44G).

The project was built in accordance with the accompanying drawings with the exception of the exterior facing material and the anodized aluminum entrances and window frames. Due to cost overrun the italian travertine on the exterior was changed to exposed aggregate panels and the anodized frames were changed to painted metal.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

CITY HALL

Paducah, Kentucky

The Paducah City Hall designed by Edward Durell Stone, Architect, New York City, associated with Lee Potter Smith and Associates of Paducah, Inc., is a classic structure done in a contemporary manner.

It occupies a complete city block and contains 61,200 square feet of floor space.

The building is three stories in height with a ground floor 180 feet square and recessed approximately 6 feet below grade housing the police department, official parking, mechanical rooms and storage. The first and second floors are 120 feet square and contain city offices, commission chambers and supporting facilities. The first and second floors are surrounded by a podium which is 220 feet square and extending 30 feet out from the building walls. 15 feet of this 30 feet is roofed at the second floor ceiling line and forms a portico with 20 columns supporting the roof.

The structure is reinforced concrete throughout with an exposed aggregate panel exterior finish. Windows and doors are steel and all glass is gray tinted.

Interior partitions are finished in plaster or wood paneling depending on the particular space and all office spaces have floors of either inlaid battleship linoleum or carpeting as the case may be. All ceilings except the central court which is 60 feet square and covered by a high skylight, are of mineral acoustical tile with recessed fluorescent lighting.

The heating, ventilating and air conditioning system is a dual ducted air system using electricity as a fuel with a heat pump providing both cooling and heating.

The completion of construction was in June, 1965. "The building will serve the city offices adequately both in size and permanence for forty to fifty years."

SITE: As shown on the drawings, the site is a full city block development and the original design included a plaza and fountain to be developed on the adjacent city block across 5th Street to the west, which would visually connect the city hall to the McCracken County Courthouse block bounded by 6th and 7th Streets and Washington and Clark Streets. The cost of the plaza development prohibited its construction at the time the city hall was built but was later constructed in 1970. The concept was developed by Edward Durell Stone's office but was developed and designed by landscape architects Scruggs and Hammonds located in Lexington, Kentucky.

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The plaza and fountain now sits in the center of the government complex with city hall on the east side, the county courthouse on the west side and the public library on the north side.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings and Specifications

All drawings, specifications, design and construction files are on record in the office of the associate architect, L.P.S. and Associates, 2200 Broadway, Paducah, Kentucky 42001.

B. N/A

C. Bibliography

1. L.P.S. and Associates - Architect's dead files
2. Architecture of Paducah and McCracken County by Camille Wells
3. City of Paducah Engineering Department

D. N/A

E. Exhibit A - search for an architect

Exhibit B - response to search

Exhibit C - architect's qualifications

Exhibit D - bid tabulation

Exhibit E - list of subcontractors

Exhibit F - project cost information

Exhibit G - notice to proceed

Exhibit H - execution of contract

SEE FIELD
RECORDS

Exhibit I - ground breaking
Exhibit J - substantial completion
Exhibit K - final completion
Exhibit L - completion of design phase

Prepared by J. Patrick Kerr, Architect
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